

Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3013

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Cody Werbelow-Miller, a resident of Mandan, ND, and I strongly oppose any efforts to overturn marriage equality. Love is love, and the right to marry the person you love should NEVER be taken away.

Marriage equality has not only strengthened families but has also provided legal and financial stability to millions of couples across the country. My spouse and I, Adam Miller-Werbelow, have built a life together, just like any other married couple. We share responsibilities, support each other in difficult times, and contribute to our community. We have been licensed foster parents for over 2 years, which allows us to help children and other families have second chances at a better life. We are able to do this because my husband and I are a team, and we do this together. We have provided so much love to the children that have come into our home, sometimes the most love they've ever felt before. But what about our lives? To have our marriage invalidated or threatened would not only be unjust, but it would also be deeply harmful.

Overturing gay marriage would send a message that LGBTQ+ people are less deserving of dignity and respect under the law. It would strip away hard-earned rights, affecting everything from hospital visitation and parental rights to social security benefits. No one should have to live in fear that their marriage, family, and legal protections could be erased. We have lived in fear most or all our lives, isn't it time we all come together and love one another so we can stop living in fear?

Marriage equality is about fairness, freedom, and love. It's about ensuring that all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, have the right to marry the person they love. We CANNOT go backward. We must continue to stand for equality and protect the progress we've made.

Families like mine deserve the same rights, protections, and recognition as any other.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cody Werbelow-Miller
District 31